

## Portraying Them as They Are Not

By EVA B. SEELEY

An unusually broad smile must these days adorn the face of Jimmy Meagher, who, above all others, is pleased when the deaf "break into print." There are deaf men and women all over the country doubtless smiling at the latest "breakings out" which, indeed, seem to be "some rash."

Melville Davison Post, in his "An Act of God," in the December Metropolitan, portrays a brainy (or so we presume—he leaves so much to the imagination of the reader) deaf mute who so evidently lacked a soul that when he was murdered in cold blood it was called "An Act of God." True, most of the crowd that witnessed the killing thought it an accident, but the fact remains, he was a bold, bad lawless man. And then—in the Saturday Evening Post of December 6 Mary Roberts Rinehart goes to the other extreme and in her story "God's Fool," gives us a deaf-mute (dummy she calls him) "without mind or intellect, all soul." Quite a study in contrast! Miss Rinehart's story was the subject of much discussion at the last meeting of our Thursday club, being unanimously turned down. The admirers of that writer who had enjoyed such stories of hers as "The Simple Lifers" and "Affinities," felt doubly aggrieved to think she could use a brainless, though soulful, "dummy" to typify the deaf. Having read the story for myself since then, I do not see anything at which to take offense, it not seeming to be the writer's intention to portray the "dummy" for anything more than an individual type. However, it all depends on the point of view; I suppose, and it would be interesting to have the opinions of other deaf people on the subject.

We had no discussion on Mr. Post's story then as we had neither read nor heard of it. When I read it, only last night, I was at once struck by the contrast between the two delineations of deaf mutes. In fact, there is such a wide breach between the two that other writers should fill the gap with stories of the real everyday deaf man and woman—men and women with both soul and brain and the ability to use them in making the best of adverse conditions.

Instead of Jimmy Meagher sending away all of his clippings anent fakirs to a hearing man urging him to write a rattling good story on the subject, why didn't he buckle down and write the story himself? If anyone can write a good expose on the fakirs Jimmy ought to be the one. What is the use of our expecting outsiders to do us justice? It is up to the deaf to make good and to make the best of our abilities—and misfortune. Suppose some of the deaf turn their talents to account and write a story with, say, the title "The Gift of God,"

or "God's Gift," or "A Man After God's Heart."

### EDMUND PRICE, HERO.

The older deaf residents of Seattle will remember Mr. and Mrs. Edmund M. Price, who for some years lived in this city. They moved to California about a dozen years ago, and are now living at Los Angeles. Their daughter is deaf and attends the California school at Berkeley. Friends here know Mr. Price some years ago received a Carnegie hero medal, but the circumstances preceding its donation are not very clear. The fol-



Emblem of the Season.

lowing was told by Prof. Th. d'Estrela in the California News, after Mr. Price had made a trip to Berkeley to visit his daughter and some relatives in San Francisco:

"Mr. Price is an ex-pupil of our school. However, he graduated from the Washington school. Later he entered Gallaudet college where he remained some years, making himself famous for his prowess in athletic games. He was made famous again by being awarded a bronze medal and \$1,000 toward the purchase of a home by the Carnegie hero commission. On May 23, 1907, Price and some friends were waiting at a station near the entrance of Seal Park Gardens for a local trolley car bound north to Los Angeles. A southbound car came up and stopped. Just then a southbound San Pedro express car was coming at such speed that it would not stop. A poor-looking family of a father and a mother with a baby in her arms and four children had got off the former car and crossed the tracks. But one other child, a girl aged five years, was walking on the tracks. The people happened to notice the danger. Some of them shouted to her to come away, but in the meantime others shouted to her to go back. It made the girl lose her presence of mind. Price dashed across the tracks, caught the child in his arms and jumped

aside with her as the car grazed him and came very near striking his right heel. He stood, balancing himself by taking hold of the girl. Then he turned and saw the backs of the people with their heads down as though they, feeling sure that Price and the child were killed or injured, would not dare to look up and see them in the jaws of death. The father ran out in tears and dashed to the girl and embraced her. Many of the people heaped praises upon Price before they knew that he was a deaf-mute.

"Some time afterwards a man was sent by the Carnegie hero commission to Los Angeles to investigate the deed of Price's heroism. Price, his relatives and friends and the witnesses were asked hundreds of questions. The family of the saved girl could not be found. If they had been, Price would likely have received more money, so the delegate stated."

### SELLS MOVING PICTURE RIGHTS.

A Los Angeles daily, on November 28, contained the following about a rising young deaf man of Santa Monica, California:

"Howard L. Terry, of Santa Monica, who has won the distinction of being the most successful literary deaf man in the west, and probably in America, has just closed a deal with the Chicago house of the Selig Polyscope Company for the moving picture rights of his novel, "A Voice From the Silence." This story was published serially last year in an eastern magazine, and when Mr. Terry recently adapted it to the photoplay it was accepted by the first house that examined it.

"Mr. Terry's work has appeared in Out, West, Sports Afield, Christian Herald, Living Church, The Hesperian, Granite State Magazine, Farm and Fireside and various newspapers.

"Mr. Terry, a pupil of Miss Grace Adele Pierce, is a Missourian by birth and lost his hearing in childhood."

### WHITEHEAD IN LONDON.

E. H. Whitehead writes that he is now in London and having a fine visit with friends and relatives. He states London has a fine independent club for the deaf, and a photograph of the building in which they meet was forwarded. Mr. Whitehead expects to book on the American liner St. Paul, leaving England January 28, in which event he will arrive in Seattle about February 10th, completing the world tour in five months.

A very interesting account of his trip from Kyoto, Japan, to London has just arrived from Mr. Whitcomb—too late for this issue. It will appear in the next.

Louis Bartl writes from Mount Vernon, Washington, and encloses his subscription to The Observer. He lives only a short distance from Mr. and Mrs. David Krause.

# THE OBSERVER

P. L. AXLING - - - Editor

The Observer is issued every two weeks on Thursday. It is published in the interest of the deaf everywhere.

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## THE SEASON'S GREETINGS.

This issue of The Observer marks the last for the year Nineteen Hundred Thirteen. The next issue will be dated January 1, 1914. Following the time honored custom, the editor and the publisher extend to each and every reader, be he a subscriber or a borrower, the greetings of the season, and hope that the new year will bring to a realization every wish you are cherishing these closing days of the old year.

## THE OBSERVER'S PLANS.

On more than one occasion the new editor of The Observer has been asked what were the plans for the future of the paper. Much concern has been shown lest the publication be discontinued. While some pretty definite plans have been mapped out, it would be premature to announce them until all others have been at least tentatively arranged. Assurance can be given, however, that the plans do not contemplate a discontinuance of the paper. On the contrary a better and bigger publication is in view. It requires time and much correspondence to enable the editor to bring together into one comprehensive mass the several arrangements desired. Until that is accomplished, The Observer will continue to observe and give the news.

## PURE ORALISM'S TENTACLES.

Word has been conveyed to the deaf of Seattle that the quiet, insidious work of the pure oral fanatics is going on in new directions, the two schools latest to fall under their designs being the Minnesota and the Arizona institutions. Of the Minnesota school there appears to be no doubt, but the information concerning the Arizona school is not at this moment very definite, and it is hoped the fears of the combined system advocates are groundless. However, the educated deaf of the country should take no chances. If it be true that the authorities of the University of Arizona at Phoenix, under which institution the school for the deaf is

conducted, are planning to turn the school over to pure oralism, then a vigorous protest should be made by individuals and organizations of the deaf everywhere. It is easier to nip in the bud any incipient movement of the kind than to combat it when once established.

Regarding the movement in the Minnesota school, it has been common knowledge that the oralists were anxious to secure control there and out all that savored of the combined system, and apparently they have found a ready tool in the present superintendent. Reports from Minnesota have been somewhat vague and conflicting, but it appears that the superintendent, balked by the educated deaf of the state in some of his high-handed attempts to force his control upon everyone and everything relating to the education and welfare of the Minnesota deaf, has been nursing a grudge and been willing to listen to overtures from the oralists, against his better judgment.

If the surmise is anywhere near the truth there will probably be a new superintendent in charge of the Minnesota school before very long. The deaf of Minnesota are unlike the deaf of Nebraska. The state is full of intelligent, well educated deaf, and the year watching over the destinies of the Minnesota school with an eagle eye. They have the brains and the determination to fight every encroachment of pure oralism over the school at Faribault, and they will not rest until they have won. Mr. Tate might as well take the cue now as later on and not try to play into the hands of the oralists.

## ASSOCIATION MEETING.

The December business meeting of the Puget Sound association of the deaf was held on the thirteenth, at Carpenters Hall. While the attendance was not up to the average, this deficiency was made up by the interest manifested in the meeting. Committee reports took up a portion of the time, Mr. Partridge telling of his attendance at the annual meeting of the local charities organization, he having been designated to represent the association at the meeting.

Mr. Axling made a report on the plans so far arranged for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the founding of our association, to be held February 21, 1914. The affair is to take the form of a banquet, and the place where it will be held is to be decided upon and most of the program prepared before the next meeting. It is very probable the price per plate will be a dollar, but the program and the place will make it well worth the attendance of every member. The committee will endeavor to secure attendance from outside also.

Trustee Hanson gave a report on our trust funds and showed the interest checks he had received the same day. The interest for the quarter ending December 1 was slightly larger than for the quarter ending September 1, last. The new plan of management of the Trustee properties seems to be meeting with success.

Charity work on the part of the association and its members came in for attention. Mr. Hanson called attention to the fact there is a boy in the Vancouver school, who would likely not receive anything this Christmas, except what the school

gives to each of the children, unless the Seattle deaf took some action. This boy hails from Seattle and has no parents. The Seattle deaf became acquainted with him last summer at the reception on the occasion of the state association meeting. On motion a modest sum was appropriated out of the association's treasury to purchase wearing apparel and a few toys for this boy and send them to him with the greetings of the association.

## SPOKANE NEWS.

The Spokane Association of the Deaf commemorated the fifth anniversary of its founding with a big spread on Thanksgiving Day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Erve Chambers. A large table, groaning under the weight of many good things, including a fifteen-pound turked and a eleven and a half-pound goose, greeted the guests as they trooped in early in the evening. At 7:30 o'clock all took their places at the table, and an address was made by the secretary of the association on behalf of the president, who had her mind to much on the feast to say much.

After the repast the men folks showed their gallantry by rolling up their sleeves and clearing away and washing the dishes, after which the entire company indulged in games, for which prizes had been provided. At 11:30 the crowd broke up and each guest went to his or her home with the smile that tells better than words can how well they had enjoyed the evening.

Among the many who were in attendance were the following: Mrs. Belle Bergh, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Patterson, Miss Amelia Bergerson, Mr. and Mrs. Barney, Mr. and Mrs. Erve Chambers, and Messrs. J. B. Bixler, B. F. Wallace, Jas. H. O'Leary, Norman J. Barney, A. E. Heritage, J. P. Frisby and Frank Masopust.

The Spokane association held its monthly business meeting on December 6, at the home of the retiring president, Miss Bergerson. Steps were taken for a celebration for February 22, J. B. Bixler, Mrs. Chambers, Miss Bergerson and Clyde Patterson being the committee to take charge of the arrangements.

Norman J. Barney, who took a correspondence course in show card writing under the tutorship of the International Correspondence School, has secured his diploma, having passed his examination. Mr. Barney worked hard to secure the document, putting in his time during the day at a mill and studying at home evenings. Naturally he is very proud of what he has secured.

D. Peters, of Chewelah, Washington, formerly a pupil of the Omaha school, has arrived in Spokane and is looking for work.

Clyde Patterson has been laid up for a week with a very sore finger, but is expecting to return to work again during the week.

Mrs. Belle Bergh, who was reported in a late issue as being quite sick, has recovered sufficiently to be around among her friends again.

J. B. Bixler, who came to Spokane from Wenatchee not long ago, has gone to work for a local photographer.

B. F. Wallace, who has been spending several weeks in Spokane, has returned to his home in Canada.



## SEATTLE LOCALS.

L. O. Christenson and his mother spent Sunday afternoon at the Axling home, taking tea there and afterward going over to call on Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Tousley.

A. H. Koberstein has now become a Frat, being initiated at the last meeting of the organization. There are several others in this vicinity who ought to be in the fold.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bertram were over to Seattle the evening of December 6 and returned home the next day. This was the first visit Mrs. Bertram had made to Seattle for almost a year.

A. J. Sackville-West has shown up among the deaf again after keeping himself very quiet for five or six months. He was at the Hanson reception, and also at the association meeting last Saturday night.

E. M. Nowell, who has been sojourning on the Sound for nearly three months, has returned to Eureka, California, going by way of Portland. He had a temporary job in Tacoma, coming to Seattle frequently.

Seattle division No. 44, N. F. S. D., held its December meeting on the sixth, at the home of L. O. Christenson. After adjournment a few of the members accompanied Mr. Hanson to his house and attended the reception.

Ernest Swangren is no longer connected with the Crescent Manufacturing Company. He was employed in the printing department. He is thinking some of learning to operate the linotype machine, unless something permanent in the line of employment turns up soon.

Roy E. Harris, in a note to Seattle friends, stated he had been out in the mountains after big game and bagged two deer. He had a number of snap shots taken of the animals and sent them along. He has just shown up in Seattle and will remain for a while a teast.

Ray B. Foster, C. K. McConnell and Hugo A. Holcombe were the outside residents who came to Seattle the night of the Frat meeting, December 6. The first named also took in the reception given by Mrs. O. Hanson the same evening, but the others had to catch their boat.

Lawrence Belser, of Wenatchee, has secured employment in the photograph gallery of Jacobs, Post-Intelligencer building. His specialty is retouching negatives, but the work was so hard on his eyes that he came to Seattle to get something more varied. This he found in Jacob's studio.

Miss Alice Hammond spent the week end in Seattle, the guest of Mrs. O. Hanson. She is in charge of the arrangements for the masquerade ball to be given on New Year's by the Tacoma deaf, and took advantage of her visit to the Puget Sound association meeting to sell some tickets. All the deaf of Seattle who can possibly go should be on hand and help to make the Tacoma affair a success.

Mrs. Olof Hanson gave a reception to Mr. and Mrs. True Partridge at her home Saturday evening, December 6, and had the house full with invited guests, nearly thirty being there. They began arriving early, despite the bad weather, and from the moment the first one came to the closing of the door on the last departing guest there was something going on. After the introductions

cards and round tables were brought out and games played, followed by refreshments consisting of sandwiches, ice cream, cakes, and fruit and coffee.

O. Hanson has gone to work for the H. A. Johnson Seating Company, with offices in the Maritime building. This concern is making a specialty in theatre, school, church and lodge furniture and equipment, and also engages in designing the erection and arrangement of theatre buildings.

Rev. C. Fedder, who conducts services for the deaf at his church on East Union and Twenty-second avenue the first Sunday of each month, had a very good attendance this month. His persistency and desire to improve in delivery is bearing fruit. The sermon on the seventh was better than any previous sermon he had given his deaf congregation here.

Howard L. Terry, of Santa Monica, California, reached Seattle Thursday afternoon and was met at the depot by Mr. Hanson and Mr. Christenson. The next day he was piloted over the city by Mr. Hanson and toward evening was turned over to Mr. Axling, who saw that he got away safely. Mr. Terry was on his way to St. Louis, Missouri, to consult his oculist, and his time was limited. It was a matter of regret that no one here knew for a certainty until his arrival whether he could remain over night. Had there been time an informal reception to him would have been arranged and he would have had a chance to meet a large number of the Seattle deaf. He is in hopes of spending a part of the summer next year in Seattle.

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## TACOMA BRIEFS.

The Tahoma Club was entertained in a jolly manner at Mrs. Hutson's home on Rigney Hill, November 11. Mr. Nowell had charge of the evening's program and introduced each new arrival to "Happy Hooligan," who grinned happily from the wall, notwithstanding he was minus a nose. After a few preliminary games Mr. Nowell informed us we would proceed to the real business of the evening, i. e., placing a nose on Hooligan. A handsome and valuable prize was to be awarded the most successful contestant.

Anxious to secure the prize, everyone exerted himself to win. As a matter of course the only hearing person present, Miss Seeley, was the winner, she being able to walk in a straighter line. And when the "handsome and valuable" prize was displayed the others were glad they were not in the lucky list. It was a five cent box of clothes pins!

A generous collection was later served, at Mr. Nowell's expense, and all in all the newcomer from California proved himself to be a jolly good fellow.

At the business meeting held at the home of Charles Hammond November 29, it was decided to hold the postponed suffrage debate on December 13. Thereafter meetings will be held but once a month, as formerly, on the third week of the month, commencing in January.

The deaf women of this city have organized a new club, calling it the Thursday Club. The president, Miss Alice Hammond, is to be the next hostess and will entertain the club at luncheon Thursday, December 11. The last meeting was held at Mrs. Foster's.

The Tahoma Club is to give a masquerade on January 1, to usher in the new year. Originally December 31 had been selected for the ball, but all good halls had been engaged for that evening, so the date was changed as above. Miss Alice Hammond is chairman of the committee.

## Later Tacoma News.

Miss Alice Hammond proved herself a hostess par excellence when it came her turn to entertain the Women's Thursday Club at luncheon. Probably she received a few pointers from her mother, one of the city's leading club women. However, that may be everything went off with precision and dispatch—the desired especially. Were we a Terry or a Meagher doubtless we would be inspired to write a long poem on Miss Hammond's salad. Those present were Mesdames Bertram, Hutson, Lorenz, Foster, C. Hammond and Seeley and Misses Slegel and Hammond. Mrs. Hutson is to be the next hostess and the date, January 8th.

While only eight members were present at the Tahoma Club meeting December 13th, at the Lorenz home, a very pleasant time was had playing 500. The debate we had been looking forward to was consigned to the distant future, when the "unfair" sex musters up enough courage to face defeat. Mr. Rowan is in California and Mr. Nowell in Aberdeen, so the debate has been postponed indefinitely. It's too bad, too, after the "fair" sex had taken such pains in preparing their arguments, and one not in the debate had planned to electrify—or maybe stupefy—the "unfair" ones

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Mr. Bander and Mr. Rowan are taking in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Hammond are to spend the Christmas holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Weaver at Ellensburg, Washington.

Miss Slegel and her mother are busy filling out-of-town orders for rosebud rosaries.

## FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

W. F. Schneider writes that he is having plenty of work to keep himself busy. He has bought an acre of ground at Aloha, Oregon, just outside the city limits of Portland, erected buildings thereon, and will put in some fruit trees. He is also starting in the poultry raising business, and at the same time is working in Portland as a photo-engraver. Mrs. Schneider has been under the weather for some time, her health being none the best.

Wm. Briskey, of Leavenworth, Washington, in sending in his renewal to The Observer, states he is helping his father on his 160-acre ranch, on which is raised lots of fruits and hay. During the past summer they erected a big barn on the place to take care of the large number of cattle they raise. William says the season's work is all done now and he can take life easy until next April, when the spring work begins.

Earl Lucy, a pupil of the Oregon school for the deaf, aged seventeen, was struck and killed by an Oregon Electric train a short distance from the school on November 24. The boy had secured permission to go to a near-by store. He walked along the track some distance and was on a sidetrack when he was struck, evidently thinking he was far enough from the main track to avoid the train he knew was due at the time.

S. T. Walker, late superintendent of the Missouri school for the deaf at Fulton, and for a number of years a resident of Portland, Oregon, is now engaged in farming in Kansas, his ranch consisting of fifteen acres. His house is equipped with electricity, steam heat and other modern conveniences.

## PUGET SOUND ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Meeting at Carpenter Hall, Fourth Avenue just north of Pine Street.

## Officers:

President—True Partridge.

Vice-President—Mrs. True Partridge.

Secretary, Philip L. Axling.

Treasurer, John E. Gustin.

Serg.-at-Arms, A. H. Koberstein.

J. H. Johnson, LL. D., superintendent of the Alabama school for the deaf from 1888 to 1892, and principal of the Alabama schools for the deaf, the blind, and the negro deaf and blind from 1893 to 1913, died on November 25, unexpectedly, in the prime of life, being but forty-nine years old.

## NOTES AND COMMENT.

The Virginia school for the deaf will have a new industrial building, construction on which is to start next summer after the present structure is torn down.

S. J. Vail, who had taught in the Indianapolis school for something like fifty-three years, retired last summer, desiring to spend the remaining years of his life in quiet.

Miss Ethelwyn M. Hammond, daughter of H. C. Hammond, former superintendent of the Kansas school and others, is president of the teachers' association in the Wisconsin school.

Edward Lorraine Tracy, son of Rev. H. L. Tracy, teacher in the Louisiana school, is enrolled in the Georgia school of technology at Atlanta, and will take the electrical engineering course.

Zach B. Thompson has been instructor of printing in the Iowa school for twenty-five years. This, so far as can be ascertained, is the longest time one man has taught in the industrial department of any school for the deaf.